ISSN 0712-777A

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

A Note from the Publisher

Well, lucky you. No walks through the park this month. I have a few questions that came in through the mail, though, that I'd like to answer.

One question that has come up quite a few times concerns the double (split) price. Some of our Canadian readers seem to think we are giving the Americans a break by pricing the book this way. The problem is, with the value of the Canadian dollar going down the way it so often does, you should be charged even more that you are now. Today (June 20th) the American dollar was worth $1.2955 here in Canada. In other words, it can buy with it's dollar what it takes $1.29 in Canadian money to buy. If the two currencies didn't happen to have the same name, people wouldn't be so confused by it. If Americans called their dollar "shekels" let's say, I could tell you that Cerebus sells for 1.70 shekels in the US and $2.00 in Canada, and you would be satisfied with that. But just because they happen to use the same name we do for currency, everyone thinks we are giving the Americans a deal. Well, at the exchange rate we had today, I should be charging you $2.40 instead of just two dollars. So who is getting the deal here? If you still don't understand, ask your local banker. They handle this all the time. (You can usually, in Canada, find out what your dollar is worth at the end of the financial report on the 6 o'clock news).

So what else came in the mail this month? Let's see..... I received a letter this month from someone who wrote regarding my request to not send submissions, "I can understand that it must be a tiring job to sort through piles of rushed submissions that may not be very good, but it may be very worth your while". Now, I seem to have made a muddled job of explaining the situation with regard to UNIQUE stories. As of today, I have accepted stories for UNIQUE for up to issue #78, which will be published in September of '85. These have all been stories that were so good I couldn't pass them by, even though I hate accepting a story that won't see print for so long. The artist can grow so much during the year and a half, he will become embarrassed by what finally does show up. I'm also feeling more and more that it can be discouraging to the artist to wait so long for his cheque (I never pay on acceptance, only upon publication). To me, these are very good reasons to ask artists to wait for me to catch up with the back-log of accepted stories. You may not always agree on my choices - but A-V will always be a company that encourages as wide a range of material as possible. I never would accept a story I felt was below standard simply because we had nothing to publish that month in UNIQUE. There are hundreds of good artists out there. I know because I see their work at conventions. Sometimes it's almost painful to turn aside someone because I have nowhere to place him/her. Othertimes I will see a portfolio of beautiful work and know that another publisher would be a better choice for this work, more suited to it. In that case, I'll recommend and even introduce them, the artist and publisher, to each other. It's hard enough in this business to be a successful artist, I won't give anyone false encouragement. On the other hand, working with someone like Jerry Siegel (in this issue's UNIQUE) was a big reward for Dave and I.

Last issue we ran an ad for our first compilation reprint book of Ms. Tree, Files of Ms. Tree. In that ad there was some incorrect information. "I, for an Eye" was reprinted from **The Eclipse Magazine** (the black and white). Ms. Tree was never in the colour monthly magazine. I know that some people question our coming out with **Files** so soon, but we wanted everyone to get a chance to read these early stories of Michael's background, to get you into the feel of the series. Mystery and suspense stories have a mood all their own, and I'm really proud that we will be publishing Ms. Tree, beginning this month. We will be using a very different method for colour, and starting a whole new story. If you feel you're a fan of the new and different, drop that copy of Secret Wars and pick up a copy of Ms. Tree. I think you'll be real glad you did.

Finally a nice word about a very innovative fanzine. It's called COMICAST and it's not printed, but taped on a cassette. When it first came in the mail I looked at it dubiously. This is a visual medium and they're doing a fanzine without pictures? What I found when I popped the tape in my machine was a closely edited professional sounding 45 minute talk show on comics. It was a lot of fun to listen to, even if I didn't always agree with everything they said. They had an interview with Bill Messner-Loebs (the reason, I suspect, we received our copy) and another one with my little "punk-rock" friend Bill Sienkiewiez. The reviews were succinct and the letters bag section interesting. I highly recommend they continue their little experiment. If you're interested, the tape I listened to was Comicast 2, and a third one will be available "some time this summer". You can write to them at COMICAST, 3009 Sansom Street, Milton, West Virginia, 25541 to be put on the will-call list. Cost of a show is $2.95 plus 55¢ for handling and shipping. The third one will be covering Richard Pini (from you-know-where) Ron Friends (Marvel Star Wars), a discussion of why adults read comics, and more. Sounds like fun.

See you in August!

Deni

CEREBUS

VOL. 1 NO. 64 JULY 1984

Publisher: Deni Loubert

Assistant to the Publisher:
Karen McKiel

Cover Separations
Mark Spencer

Circulation: 21,000

Distributors:
Bud Plant Inc.
P.O. Box 1886
Grass Valley, CA 95945

Glenwood Distribution
124 Vandalia St.
Collinsville, IL 62234

Capital City Distributors
2827 Perry Street
Madison, WI 53713

Diamond Comics
Distributors Inc.
1720 Belmont Ave.
Bay B - 2
Baltimore, MD 21207

Sea Gate Distributors
657 Fifth Ave.
Brooklyn, N.Y. 11215

Longhorn Books
9200 Chancellor Row
Dallas, TX 75247

Styx Comic Service
Box 3791, Stn. B
Winnipeg, Man., Canada
R2W 3R6

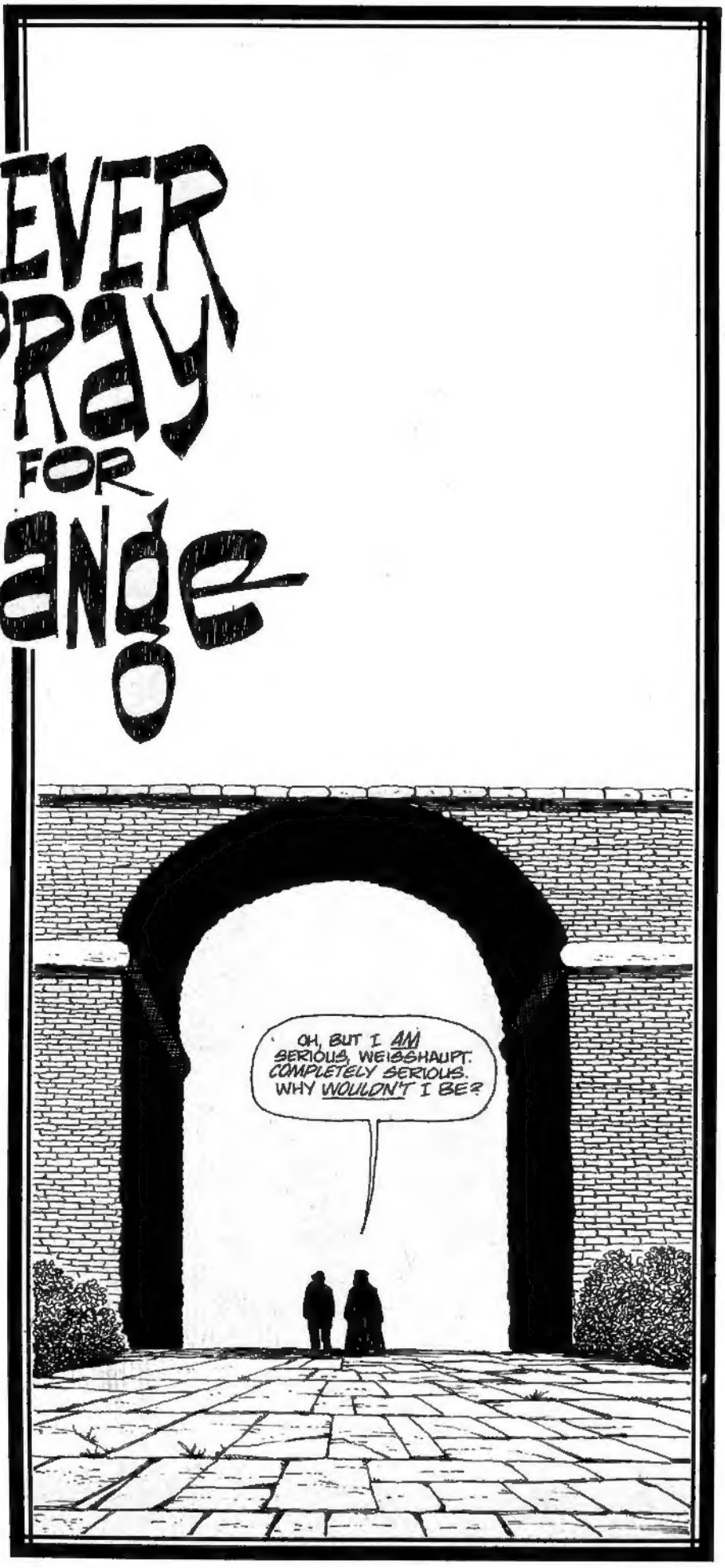
Now & Then Books
90 Queen St. South
Kitchener, Ontario, Canada
N2G 1V9

Andromeda Publications
367 Queen St. W.
Toronto, Ontario, Canada
M5V 2A4

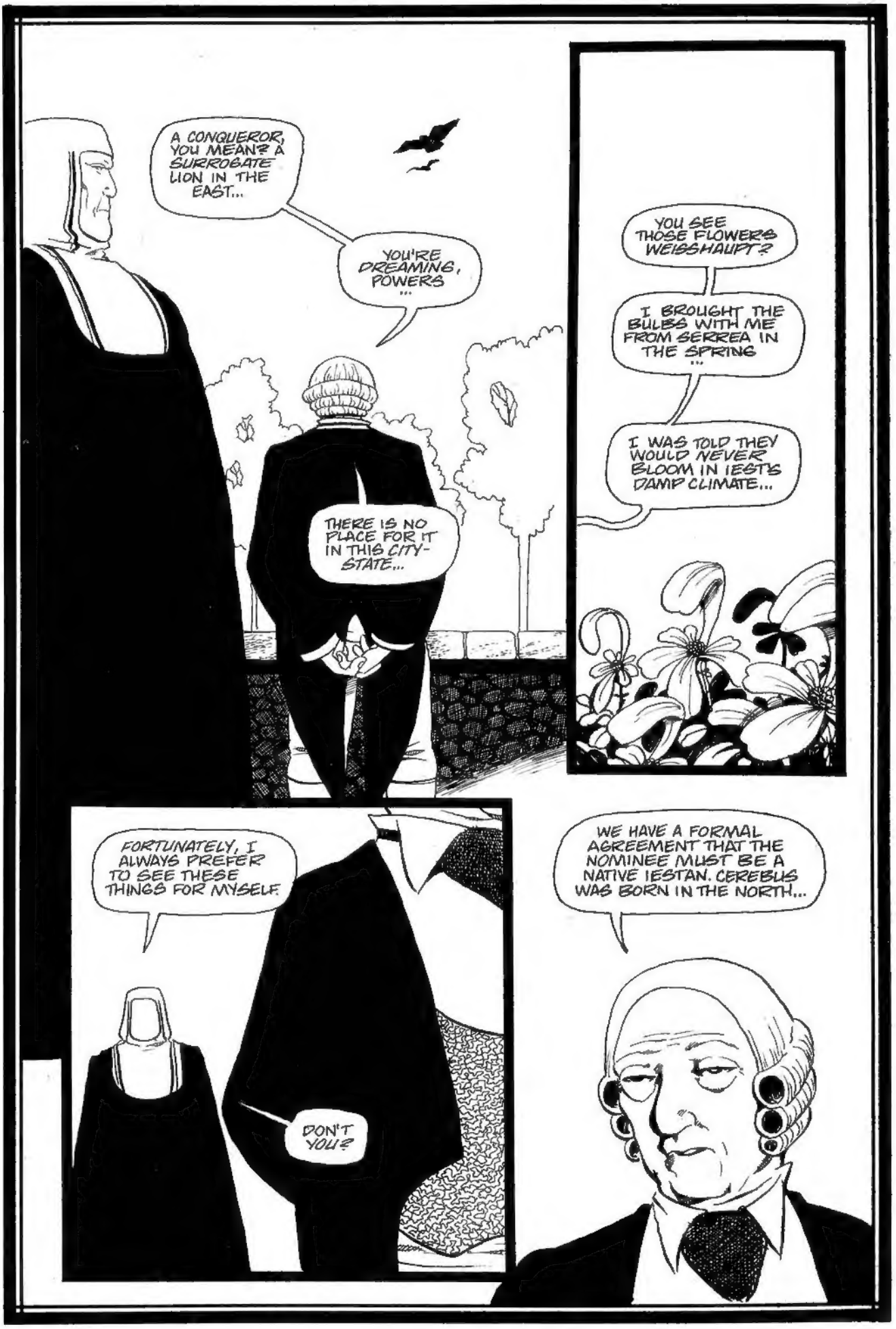
Titan Distributors
P.O. Box 250
London, E3 4RT England

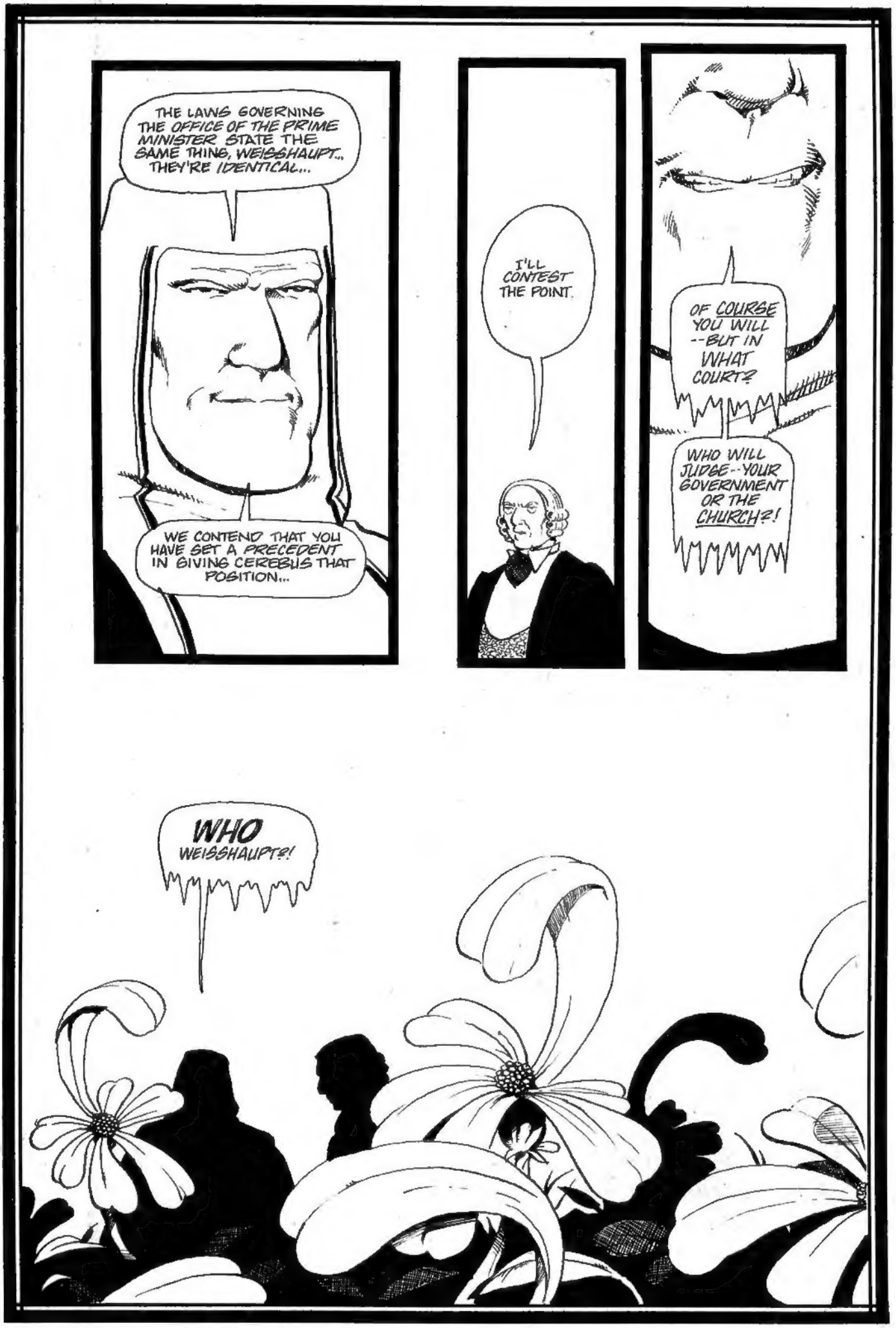
CEREBUS THE AARDVARK is published fifteen times a year by Aardvark-Vanaheim Inc., P.O. Box 1674 Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario, Canada N2G 4R2, including three "Swords of Cerebus" in winter, spring and fall. All contents © 1984 Dave Sim. Any inquiries regarding use of the characters, images, or situations depicted should be addressed to Deni Sim. No unauthorized reproduction allowed except for review or other Journalistic purpose. Advertising rates furnished on request. Printed in Canada by Preney Print and Litho Inc., Windsor, Ontario.

NEVER PRAY FOR CHANGE

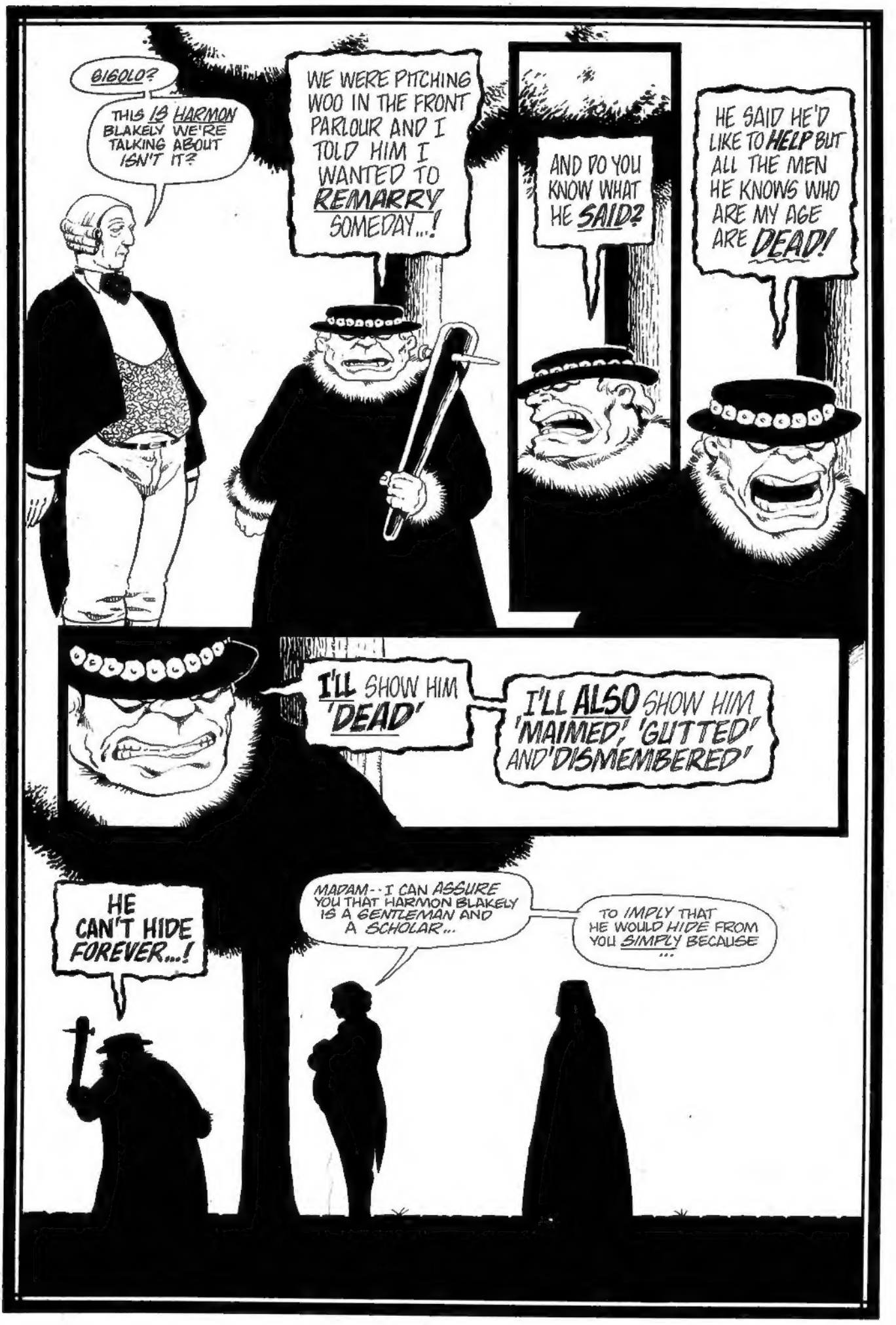


HE'S HAD NO THEOLOGICAL TRAINING
HE'S A THIEF, A DRUNKARD, A FREAK...
HE'S MARRIED ...
SHALL I GO ON...?
AH! BUT YOU'RE FORGETTING THE MIRACLE...
MIRACLE.
I REFER YOU TO YOUR TRACT ON THE INVASION OF 1414... PAGE TWENTY-THREE...
WHEREIN THE VALIANT PRIME MINISTER TURNS BACK THE INVADING HSIFANS SINGLE-HANDEDLY, BECAUSE TARIM IS WITH HIM ...
REALLY, NOW, POWERS. HAD I INTENDED FOR EDUCATED MEN TO READ THAT NONSENSE, I WOULD HAVE USED SMALLER TYPE...
TYPE-SIZE NOTWITHSTANDING, IT IS OUR FEELING THAT THE FAITHFUL WILL BE QUITE PLEASED TO HAVE A MIRACLE WORKER AS THEIR PONTIFF
HE WILL MAKE THE IMPOSITION OF OUR WESTERN DOCTRINE MORE... PALATABLE...


A CONQUEROR, YOU MEAN? A SURROGATE LION IN THE EAST...
YOU'RE DREAMING, POWERS ...
THERE IS NO PLACE FOR IT IN THIS CITY-STATE...
YOU SEE THOSE FLOWERS WEISSHAUPT?
I BROUGHT THE BULBS WITH ME FROM SERREA IN THE SPRING ...
I WAS TOLD THEY WOULD NEVER BLOOM IN IESTI'S DAMP CLIMATE...
FORTUNATELY, I ALWAYS PREFER TO SEE THESE THINGS FOR MYSELF.
DON'T YOU?
WE HAVE A FORMAL AGREEMENT THAT THE NOMINEE MUST BE A NATIVE IESTAN. CEREBUS WAS BORN IN THE NORTH...

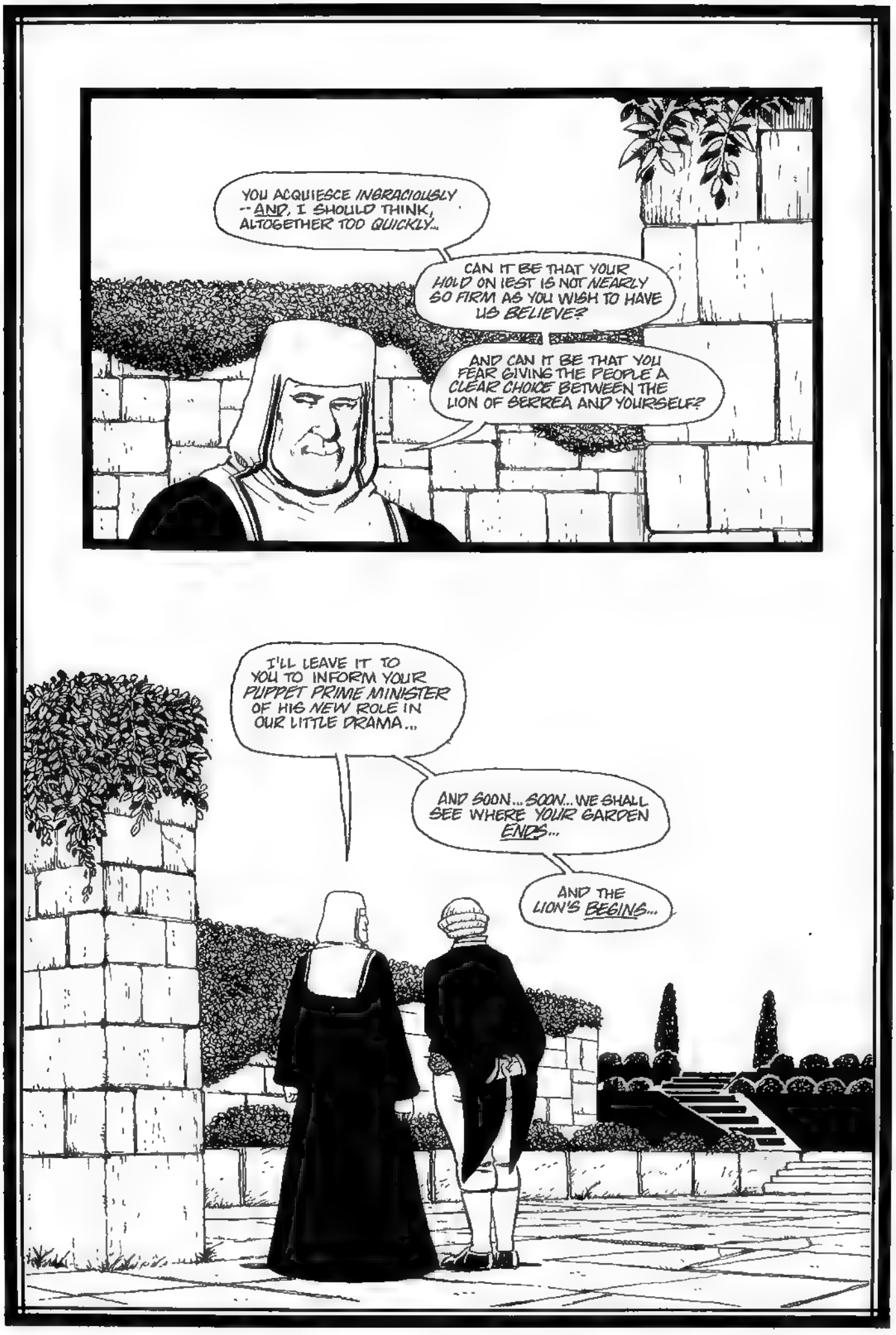

THE LAWS GOVERNING THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER STATE THE SAME THING, WEISSHAUPT... THEY'RE IDENTICAL...
WE CONTEND THAT YOU HAVE SET A PRECEDENT IN GIVING CEREBUS THAT POSITION...
I'LL CONTEST THE POINT.
OF COURSE YOU WILL --BUT IN WHAT COURT?
WHO WILL JUDGE--YOUR GOVERNMENT OR THE CHURCH?!
WHO WEISSHAUPT?!

IF YOU INSIST ON FORCING THE ISSUE, POWERS...
ALLRIGHT!! WHERE IS HE?
CRASH
CRACKLE
SKRUSH
MADAM?
BLAKELY!
THAT HEARTLESS GIGOLO HAS TOYED WITH MY GIRLISH AFFECTIONS FOR THE LAST TIME!!


GIGOLO?
THIS IS HARMON BLAKELY WE'RE TALKING ABOUT ISN'T IT?
WE WERE PITCHING WOO IN THE FRONT PARLOUR AND I TOLD HIM I WANTED TO REMARRY SOMEDAY...!
AND DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE SAID?
HE SAID HE'D LIKE TO HELP BUT ALL THE MEN HE KNOWS WHO ARE MY AGE ARE DEAD!
I'LL SHOW HIM 'DEAD'
I'LL ALSO SHOW HIM 'MAIMED', 'GUTTED' AND 'DISMEMBERED'
HE CAN'T HIDE FOREVER...!
MADAM--I CAN ASSURE YOU THAT HARMON BLAKELY IS A GENTLEMAN AND A SCHOLAR...
TO IMPLY THAT HE WOULD HIDE FROM YOU SIMPLY BECAUSE ...

AHA!
CRACK
HAHAHA I'VE GOT YOU NOW!
I'LL FEED YOU TO THE GOLDFISH YOU ROGUE!
I'LL GIVE YOU A NEW PAIR OF KNEES HALFWAY UP YER SHINS
STAND STILL Y' CRAVEN!!!

KEVILLIST NO DOUBT.
MM. I BEG TO DIFFER. A KEVILLIST WOULD'VE JUST SLIPPED SOME BELLADONNA INTO HIS SNUFF BOX...
IT'S THE CIRINISTS WHO ARE PARTIAL TO BLUNT INSTRUMENTS.
INITIATE THE PROCEEDINGS IF YOU MUST, POWERS. IF CEREBUS IS YOUR CHOICE, I CAN ALTER MY PLANS TO ACCOMODATE SUCH A CHANGE...
BUT IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING UP YOUR SLEEVE ON THIS ONE, BEAR IN MIND THAT THE ECONOMIC LEVERAGE THAT I HAVE IS NOT INCONSIDERABLE ...
I CAN -- AND WILL RUIN THE CHURCH DOWN TO ITS LAST HALF CROWN IF I AM PROVOKED...
YOU TEND TO YOUR OWN GARDEN -- AND I WILL TEND TO MINE.


YOU ACQUIESCE *INGRACIOUSLY* --AND, I SHOULD THINK, ALTOGETHER TOO *QUICKLY*...
CAN IT BE THAT YOUR *HOLD ON* TEST IS NOT *NEARLY* SO FIRM AS YOU WISH TO HAVE US *BELIEVE*?
AND CAN IT BE THAT YOU FEAR GIVING THE PEOPLE A *CLEAR CHOICE* BETWEEN THE LION OF SERREA AND YOURSELF?
I'LL LEAVE IT TO YOU TO INFORM YOUR *PUPPET PRIME MINISTER* OF HIS *NEW* ROLE IN OUR LITTLE DRAMA...
AND SOON... *SOON*... WE SHALL SEE WHERE *YOUR* GARDEN *ENDS*...
AND THE LION'S *BEGINS*...

WELL, IF YOU ASK ME, I THINK IT'S WONDERFUL NEWS...

I MEAN, YOU'RE ALWAYS COMPLAINING THAT YOU'RE NOTHING MORE THAN WEISSHAUPT'S PUPPET AREN'T YOU?
WELL, HE DOESN'T HAVE ANY CONTROL OVER THE CHURCH AT ALL...
YOU'LL FINALLY BE ABLE TO DECIDE WHAT YOU WANT TO DO AND THEN YOU CAN DO IT

CEREBUS DOESN'T...
"...WANT TO DO ANYTHING." I KNOW, I KNOW
BUT IF YOU DON'T WANT TO DO ANYTHING, WHY DO YOU HATE BEING PRIME MINISTER SO MUCH?

SLAM!
DAD-BLASTED LONG LEGS OF HIS--
I LOST 'IM CUTTING THROUGH THE HEDGES

CEREBUS WAS WONDERING WHY YOU LOOK BETTER THAN YOU USUALLY DO...

CEREBUS DARLING ...

LISTEN HERE, YOU LITTLE BOOZE BUCKET...

MUHTHER

WHO ARE YOU CALLING A BOOZE BUCKET, YOU WRINKLED-UP OLD BAG?!
CEREBUS DARLING MOTHER PLEASE
LET ME AT HIM LET ME AT HIM

KNOCK KNOCK

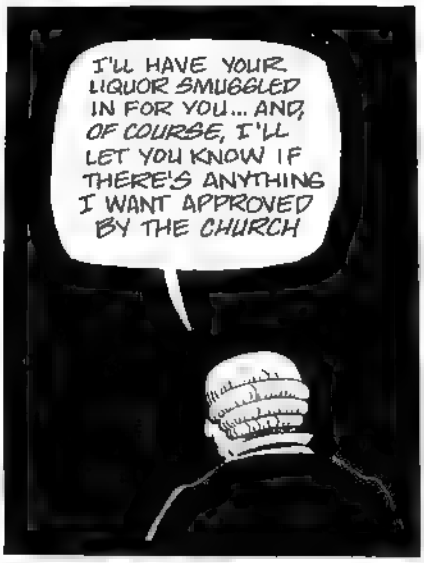
WHAT DO YOU WANT?!

WELL, IT'S OFFICIAL.. I'VE JUST HAD A CHAT WITH BISHOP POWERS...
YOU'RE TO BE APPOINTED THE NEW PONTIFF

YOU TOLD CEREBUS THAT LAST NIGHT...

I MUST SAY I COULDN'T BE MORE PLEASED

YOU SAID THAT LAST NIGHT, TOO...


I'LL HAVE YOUR LIQUOR SMUGGLED IN FOR YOU... AND, OF COURSE, I'LL LET YOU KNOW IF THERE'S ANYTHING I WANT APPROVED BY THE CHURCH

YOU SAID THAT THIS MORNING ...

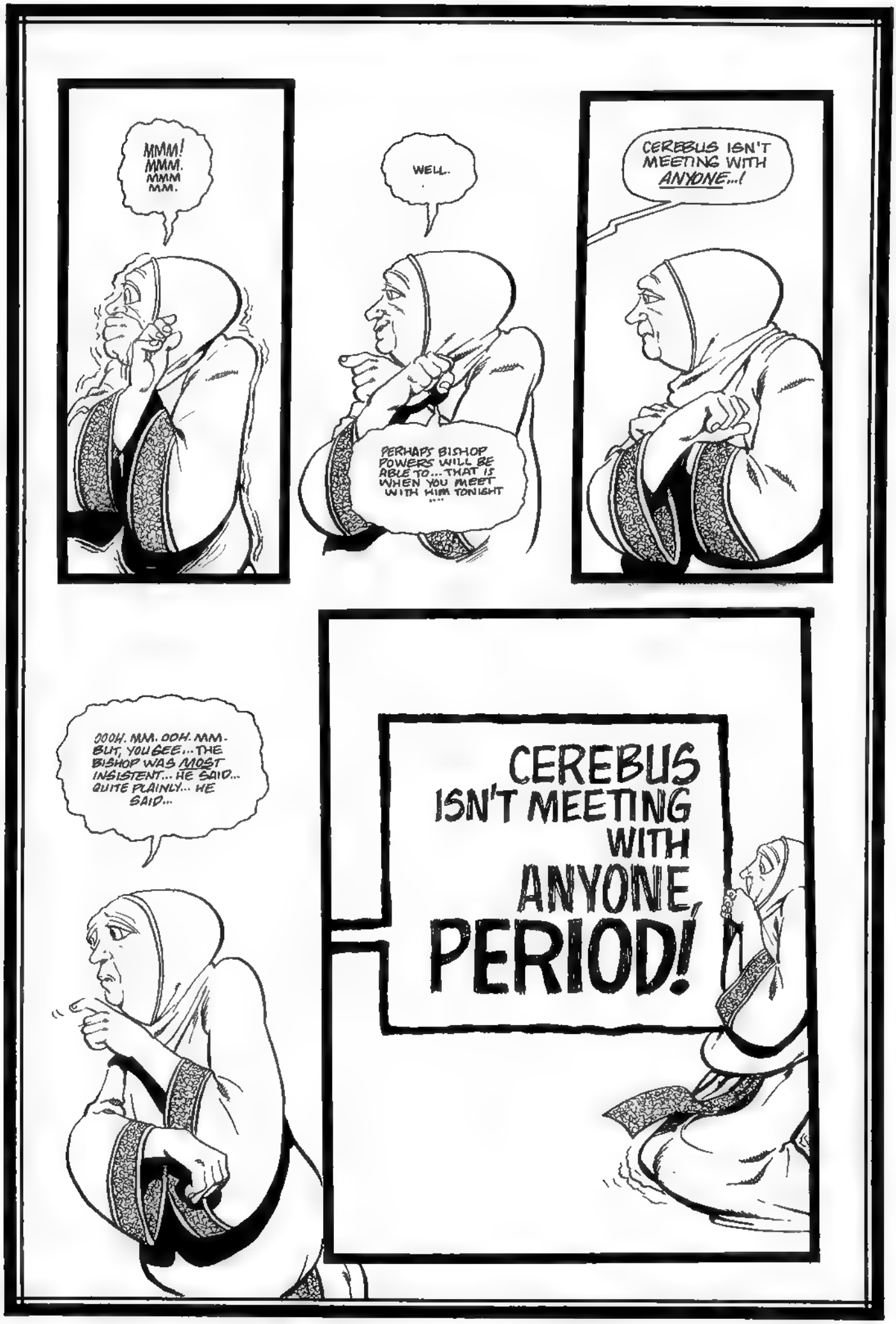
YES
OF COURSE
I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO BE WORRIED THAT I WON'T BE HERE TO HELP YOU ...

CEREBUS ISN'T WORRIED ...
WE HAVE AN UNDERSTANDING, THEN?
GOOD. GOOD.
WELL, THEN. IF YOU FIND YOU NEED ANY KIND OF...
CEREBUS WILL SEND A MESSAGE TO YOUR OFFICE...
YOU TOLD CEREBUS THAT LAST NIGHT AND THIS MORNING ...
EVIDENTLY, SOMEONE IS ON THEIR WAY WITH YOUR ROBES. IF YOU'D LIKE ME TO STAY...
CEREBUS CAN GET DRESSED BY HIMSELF

YES.
QUITE.
YOU KNOW, I REALLY DO THINK THAT WE SHOULD SIT DOWN AND DISCUSS...
DON'T SLAM IT ON YOUR WAY OUT..
WEISSHAUPT
PAIN

WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST, MOST HOLY WITH MM-MM OUR LIMITED TIME SO WE DO HOPE IT WILL...
...FIT
S-MARCH.
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS..?
ARCHBISHOP POSEY - JUST LIKE THE FLOWER M-HUH M-HUH
I HOPE THAT MY BOGE LEVITY DOESN'T OFFEND YOU, MOST HOLY...
OOOH, OOH! NOW, YOU SEE? THE SACRED CLOTH OF TAKIM IS JUST THE WEEEENIEST BIT UNEVEN!..
IF YOU'LL FORGIVE MY MAKING SO BOLD, MOST HOLY
IF YOU TOUCH MOST HOLY MOST HOLY WILL BREAK YOUR FINGERS
MM-MM. BUT.. WE MUSTN'T... THERE IS A..
MM! MM!
IT SN'T SUPPOSED TO. THAT IS

WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST, MOST HOLY, WITH MM-MM OUR LIMITED TIME SO WE DO HOPE IT WILL...
...FIT.
SMACK!
WHAT DID YOU SAY YOUR NAME WAS...?
ARCHBISHOP POSEY - JUST LIKE THE FLOWER M-HUH M-HUH
I HOPE THAT MY BASE LEVITY DOESN'T OFFEND YOU, MOST HOLY...
OOOH, OOH NOW, YOU SEE? THE SACRED CLOTH OF TARIM IS JUST THE WEEEENSIEST BIT UNEVEN...
IF YOU'LL FORGIVE MY MAKING SO BOLD, MOST HOLY ...
IF YOU TOUCH MOST HOLY, MOST HOLY WILL BREAK YOUR FINGERS
MM MM BUT.. WE MUSTN'T... THERE IS A...
MM! MM!
IT ISN'T SUPPOSED TO... THAT IS


MMM! MMM. MMM MM.
WELL.
PERHAPS BISHOP POWERS WILL BE ABLE TO... THAT IS WHEN YOU MEET WITH HIM TONIGHT ...
CEREBUS ISN'T MEETING WITH ANYONE...!
OOOH. MM. OOH. MM- BUT, YOU SEE... THE BISHOP WAS MOST INSISTENT... HE SAID... QUITE PLAINLY... HE SAID...
CEREBUS ISN'T MEETING WITH ANYONE, PERIOD!

TELL HIM THAT, PUDDING FACE
MMM' MMM! MMM
NO MORE MEETINGS! NO MORE AIDES! NO MORE ASSISTANTS! NO MORE PARASITES OF ANY KIND...!
MMM! MMM! MMM
AND TELL HIM THE NEXT TIME HE SENDS MOST HOLY A LIMP-WRISTED PUCKER-FACED SACK OF SUET, MOST HOLY IS GOING TO SEND HIM BACK IN BITE SIZE BITS!!
MM MM

TELL HIM THAT, PUDDING-FACE
MMM! MMM! MMM
NO MORE MEETINGS! NO MORE AIDES! NO MORE ASSISTANTS! NO MORE PARASITES OF ANY KIND...!
MMM! MMM! MMM
AND TELL HIM THE NEXT TIME HE SENDS MOST HOLY A LIMP-WRISTED PUCKER-FACED SACK OF SUET, MOST HOLY IS GOING TO SEND HIM BACK IN BITE-SIZE BITS!!
MM MM

WELL I DON'T SEE WHY YOU TWO CAN'T GET ALONG
IT ISN'T MY FAULT HE ALWAYS--
SLAM
CEREBUS, DARLING! MOTHER AND I WERE WORRIED
FOR ALL I CARE HE CAN DROP OFF THE FACE OF THE
ORDER A CARRIAGE AND PACK ALL YOUR THINGS... WE'RE LEAVING.
LEAVING BUT WHY? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HE BLEW IT HE SAID SOMETHING TO THAT ARCHBISHOP AND NOW WE'RE
ORDER A CARRIAGE
PACK YOUR THINGS
AND SHUT UP!

WELL, I DON'T SEE WHY YOU TWO CAN'T GET ALONG
IT ISN'T MY FAULT-- HE ALWAYS--
SLAM
CEREBUS DARLING! MOTHER AND I WERE WORRIED
I WASN'T WORRIED -- FOR ALL I CARE HE CAN DROP OFF THE FACE OF THE...
ORDER A CARRIAGE AND PACK ALL YOUR THINGS... WE'RE LEAVING...
LEAVING? BUT WHY? IS SOMETHING WRONG?
HE BLEW IT -- HE SAID SOMETHING TO THAT ARCHBISHOP AND NOW WE'RE ...
ORDER A CARRIAGE--
PACK YOUR THINGS
AND SHUT UP!!

CEREBUS WANTS THAT RAIN STOPPED NOW!
OH, WELL-- TWO OUT OF THREE ISN'T BAD

make cheques payable to.

90 queen street south

now and then books

kitchener · ontario · n2g 1w1

(519) 744-5571

RETAIL AND WHOLESALE

Back Issues

Cerebus No. 15	$15.00	each
Cerebus No. 26, 28	$2.00	each
Cerebus No. 31-63	$2.00	each
Journey No. 2-11	$2.00	each
Miriad No. 5-6	$2.00	each
Neil No. 1-8	$2.00	each
Normalman No. 1-3	$2.00	each
Strange Brew	$3.50	each
Flaming Carrot #1	$2.00	each

75¢ postage per book

Swords of Cerebus Vol. 1-5 - $5.00 each plus 75¢ post. & hand.
F.O.O.G. Portfolio - $7.00 plus $1.00 post. & hand.
Animated Cerebus Portfolio - $12.00 plus $1.50 post. & hand.
Oktoberfest (Sim & Gene Day) 75¢ each plus .75¢ post. & hand.

Subscriptions (Cerebus & Journey)

12 issues for $26.00 in Canada, $29.00 in U.S. or Foreign (includes all postage) wrapped securely and mailed flat. Indicate which issue subscription starts with. Air mail subscriptions now available for outside North America $44.00 for one year subscription

The Official CEREBUS TOY

(sword not included)

Send $15.00 & $4.25 for postage to Now & Then Books

Original Artwork

$4.00 postage and handling per page

(Pages Available) — list alternates

$50 per page

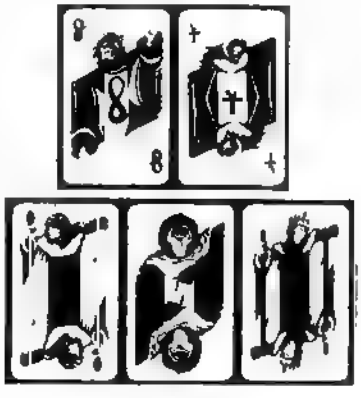
No. 2 pgs. 11, 20, 22
No. 3 pgs. 7, 18
No. 5 pgs. 5, 10, 16
No. 8 pg. 15
No. 10 pgs. 9, 12, 13, 14, 18
No. 11 pgs. 2, 17, 21
No. 13 pgs. 3, 6, 8, 9, 10
No. 15 pg. 7
No. 16 pgs. 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18
No. 17 pgs. 7, 8, 10, 12
No. 18 pgs. 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 13, 15, 20
No. 19 pgs. 3, 4, 5, 6
No. 20 pg. 1
No. 21 pgs. 9, 12, 20
No. 22 pgs. 5, 11, 13, 15
No. 23 pgs. 14, 19
No. 25 pgs. 7, 9, 10, 14
No. 28 pgs. 17, 20
Demonhorn Story (Nucleus) pgs. 3, 4

$100 per page

No. 30 pg. 2
No. 31 pg. 15
No. 32 pg. 8
No. 34 pgs. 2, 6
No. 35 pg. 5
No. 37 pg. 15
No. 38 pgs. 15, 16
No. 39 pg. 16
No. 40 pgs. 8, 9, 18, 19, 20
No. 41, pg. 14
No. 44 pgs. 8
No. 46 pg. 19

$2.95

+ 75¢ postage and handling



diamondback

Posters

only 20 left

$5.00 EACH (signed and numbered) 4 colour 1977 75¢ postage and handling

$1.00 EACH 75¢ postage & handling

Subscriptions

(Neil the Horse, Flaming Carrot & Normalman)

6 issues for

$14.50 for Canadian, US and Foreign

Single copies available too.

***PLEASE ALLOW 4 TO 6 WEEKS FOR DELIVERY**

A UNIQUE STORY

RICKY · ROBOT · The CREATION · of · RICKY · !

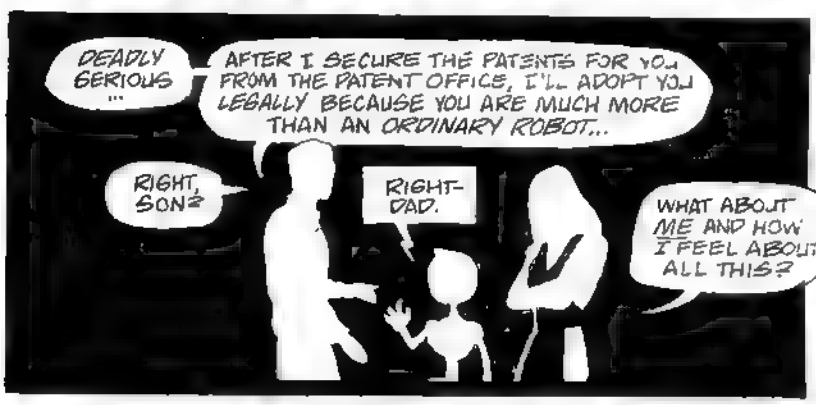
MMM. THE STEW SMELLS GOOD...
BOOM
THAT EXPLOSION CAME FROM THE CELLAR LAB!
FILBERT!
CALM DOWN, MARY I'M OKAY-- JUST A LITTLE SHOOK UP, THAT'S ALL...
YOU ALMOST MADE A WIDOW OF ME--AND ORPHANS OF SALLY AND BILLY...!
THE TOP OF MY NEUTROX-ASSEMBLER BLEW APART ...
FORTUNATELY, THE MAIN CHAMBER IS UNDAMAGED..
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN KILLED..!

BUT I WASN'T HONEY--
LOOK!
FEET!
METAL FEET!
PRESTO!
A..
..ROBOT..
..BOY!
HE WON'T GO ON A RAMPAGE AND WRECK THINGS, WILL HE?
RICKY ROBOT IS AS LOVABLE AND FRIENDLY AS ANY HUMAN KID...
WE CAN'T HAVE HIM STANDING AROUND STARK NAKED--I'LL GET HIM SOME CLOTHES THAT BILLY OUTGREW...
SHORTLY..
HE'S ADORABLE!
WON'T BILLY AND SALLY BE EXCITED TO SEE RICKY WHEN THEY GET HOME FROM SCHOOL?
MARY, RICKY'S EXISTENCE MUST REMAIN A SECRET BETWEEN JUST YOU AND ME...
...WHILE I COGITATE FURTHER ABOUT CERTAIN SOCIOLOGICAL RAMIFICATIONS CONCERNING RICKY...
CAN HE TALK?

CAN YOU TALK, SON?
YES - DAD - THANKS - TO - YOU...
DAD!?
R
RICKY KNOWS SOMETHING I FORGOT TO TELL YOU... SINCE I AM RICKY'S INVENTOR...

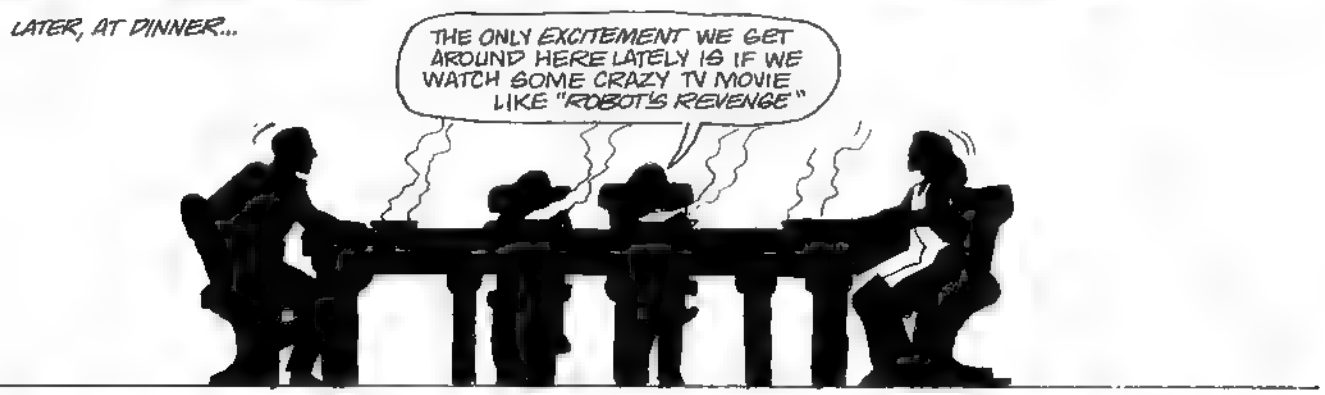
THAT MAKES ME...
IN A WAY...
HIS FATHER...

BECAUSE YOU ARE MY WIFE, THAT AUTOMATICALLY MAKES YOU HIS MOTHER, -- CORRECT?
FILBERT RAZZMA!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!


DEADLY SERIOUS...
AFTER I SECURE THE PATENTS FOR YOU FROM THE PATENT OFFICE, I'LL ADOPT YOU LEGALLY BECAUSE YOU ARE MUCH MORE THAN AN ORDINARY ROBOT...
RIGHT, SON?
RIGHT - DAD.
WHAT ABOUT ME AND HOW I FEEL ABOUT ALL THIS?

DON'T - YOU - WANT - TO - BE - MY - MOTHER?
HE'S ALMOST HUMAN. THERE ARE TEARS IN HIS EYES...

HE HAS FEELINGS -- HUMAN-LIKE EMOTIONS HE WANTS MY LOVE...
THAT DARLING ROBOT BOY NEEDS A MOTHER...



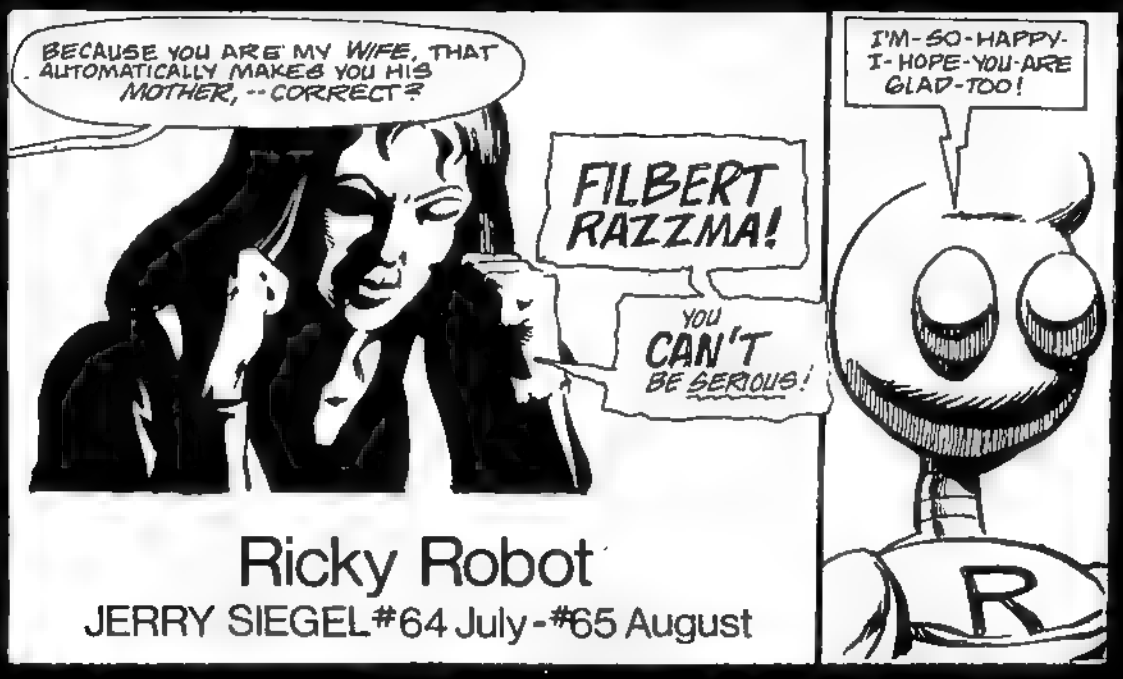
NEXT: RICKY JOINS THE FAMILY

MEGATON MAN JOINS KITCHEN SINK LINE-UP!

IT'S GREAT BEING ON THE KITCHEN SINK TEAM!
SO! WHAT ARE YOUR SUPER-POWERS?
FIRST ISSUE IN SEPTEMB
FULL COLOR AXTER
©1984 WILL EISNER
©84 D. Simpson
© 1984 FIELD ENTERPRISES, INC.
DONALD SIMPSON '84
SO MUCH FOR A HOUSE STYLE!

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

UNIQUE STORIES


BECAUSE YOU ARE MY WIFE, THAT AUTOMATICALLY MAKES YOU HIS MOTHER, -- CORRECT?
FILBERT RAZZMA!
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
I'M-SO-HAPPY-I-HOPE-YOU-ARE GLAD-TOO!
R

Ricky Robot

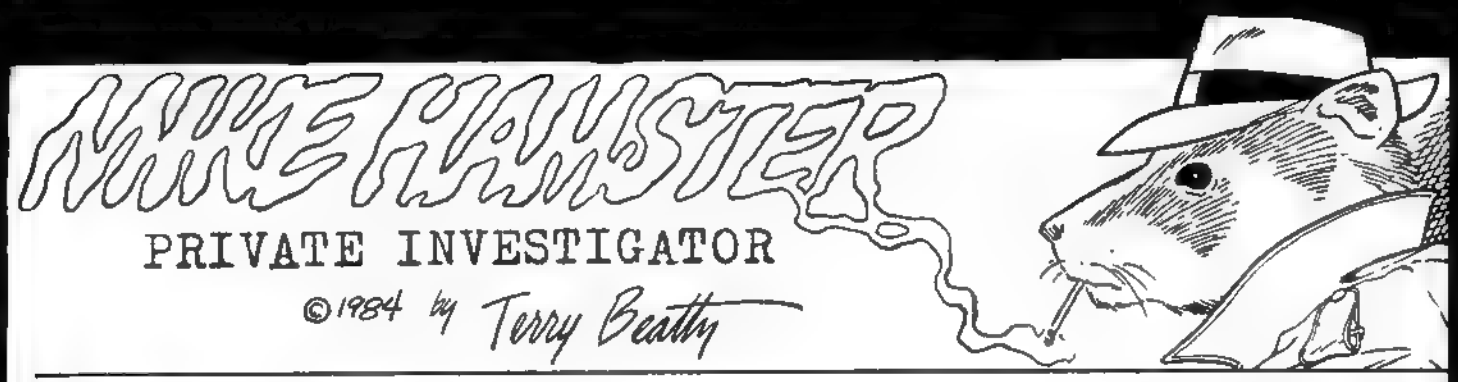
JERRY SIEGEL #64 July - #65 August

Wish Zone

TOM STAZER #66 Sept. - #67 Oct.

the Jade Princess

MICHAEL CHERKAS #68 Nov. - #70 Jan.



Mike Hamster

TERRY BEATTY 71 Feb. - 73 Apr. 85

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

To Aardvark Comment Fans,

As a service to those readers of Aardvark Comment, I am presenting the first part of the unofficial index to Aardvark Comment. Each month I will print a list of all the issues in which a favorite fan (as opposed to a fan favorite) has had a letter published in Aardvark-Comment. Also provided is a brief description of the subject of the letter. The first installment will cover none other than Mike Bannon.

Issue 23 - Subject: Hiccups

Issue 27 - Subject: Commas

Issue 29 - Subject: Special all (almost) Mike Bannon issue.

Issue 50 - Subject: The return of Mike Bannon (4 count 'em 4 letters).

Issue 55 - Subject: A short letter

Issue 56 - Subject: Mike Bannon Fan Club.

Issue 60 - Subject: Scooby Doo, Twilight Zone.

This index will help those individuals who are trying to decide which back issues of Cerebus to purchase. Alternatively, many readers may wish to wait until Dave and Deni publish Swords of Mike Bannon, Vol. 1.

Next Month: Micky (Michelle) Dupree.

Yours truly,

Daniel Pei
4120 Brooklyn Ave., NE., Apt 305.
Seattle, WA., 98105

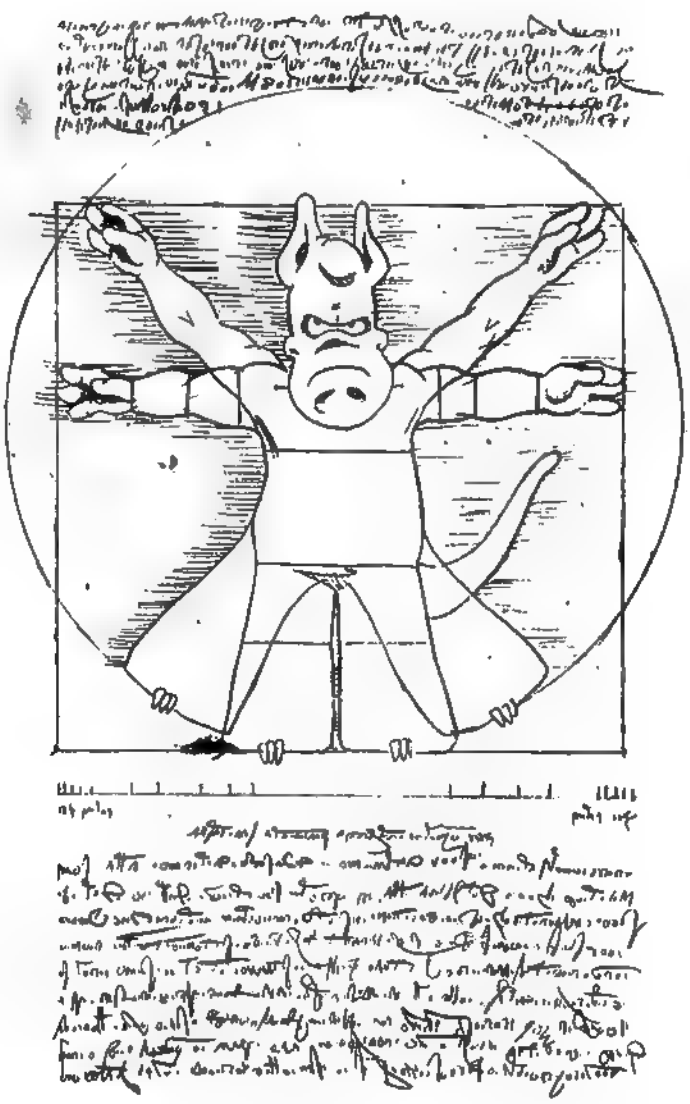
No comment – aardvark or otherwise.

* * * * * * * * * * *

Hi Dave,

This is Terry, BOB's programmer. BOB can't write this month, he's in the shop for repairs. Since the two of us got home for the summer, my two younger brothers have been playing video games on the happless computer everyday. Finally, he just couldn't take it anymore, and fritzed out. (At least, so he says. Personally, I think that Apple 2+'s letter shook him up more than he's willing to admit).

Anyway, I get to write the letter this month, and I'd just love to tell you how



Dear Dave,

Several years ago I got a big book of DaVinci drawings. In the book I found several pages of drawings of unusual creatures. At first I thought they were drawings from his imagination, his so-called "phantastic beastes". Then I started reading Cerebus, and well, the similarity is amazing.

Your pal,

Bob (yes my real name) Canada

LIKE NO ELVES YOU'VE EVER SEEN...

GRIMWOOD'S DAUGHTERS™

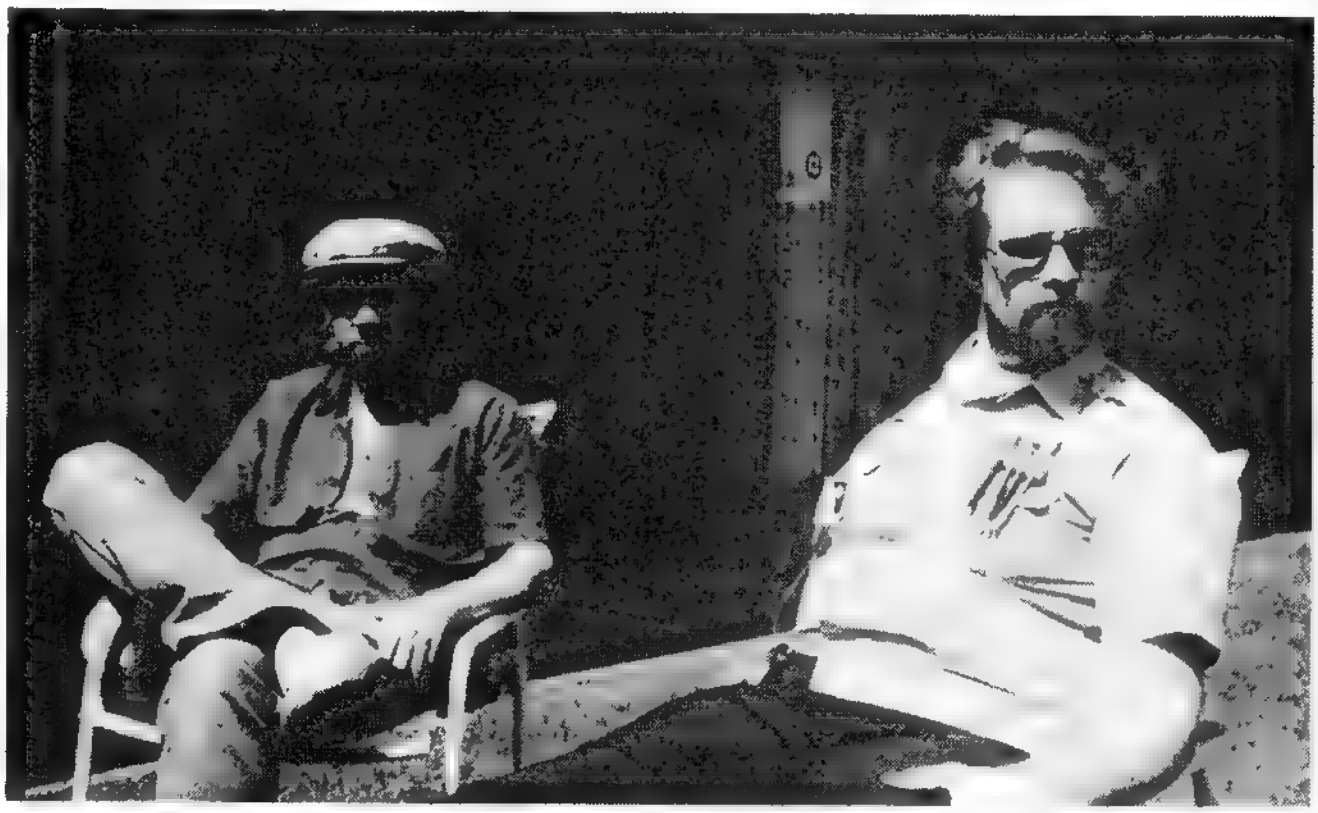
Jan Strnad
Kevin Nowlan
Kenneth Smith

© 1984 Jan Strnad & Kevin Nowlan

Beginning in the second issue of

DALGODA™

On distributors' order forms in JUNE
Printed in full color on Baxter paper
From FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS



Dave Sim and Wm. Francis Messner-Loebs do their impressions of Berni Wrightson drawings outside the Oakland Hyatt on the Sunday of Petuniacon. PHOTO BY Arn Saba

much I enjoyed #62, how funny and intriguing and frustrating it was. Yes, I would very much like to do this.

But I can't, 'cause I ain't got that issue! This is the dry season for BOB and me, the summer. When I'm out of University, the nearest comic shop is over 200 kilometres away, and I get to the city only very occassionally. So each summer I go through my period of Aardvark withdrawl.

So, why not subscribe, you ask, pondering whatever reasons I might have. Simple, I reply, I go through too many changes of addresses in a year to make subscribing worthwhile. Besides, you don't need to worry about my missing any issues. I've got a cousin in Saskatoon who buys **Cerebus** for me over the summer months. My only problem is (Shudder) withdrawl!

Paranoid in Saskatchewan,

Terry Wessner

Next time include your address, Terry. A lot of BOB's friends want to send him get-well programmes.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave,

I just finished #62 and thought I had to comment. Theresa's dialogue was very informative, but, of course, too short as I am sure Weisshaupt would agree. And the birds fighting outside the window were an interesting counterpoint to the underlying metaphor. Sorry about that. I just couldn't hold it back. The intervention of Lord Julius and Duke Leonardi was quite timely. Lord Julius does seem to have a flair for "timely" interventions. He looks absolutely ridiculous in those clothes.

Now I must express some concern for Duke Leonardi. On page #14, the first panel, Weisshaupt looks quite shaken, but Leonardi has visibly paled. Like, uh, Dave.....where's his face? I have heard of blank stares before, but isn't this carrying it a little far? Maybe you should have him "save face" sometime for the next time he has these troubles facing up to his problems.

Ah, yes. And now we come to Scorz of Scorz Scorz and Sons. His return is most welcome. Actually, I think his return and comments may have a deeper meaning. Could "away the sewage" at this moment possibly mean Weisshaupt and his rule? Maybe I am pressing matters a bit.

You may not have noticed, but the last couple of pages have TWO startling revelations. One is, of course, the naming of Cerebus as the new candidate for the Eastern Pontiff, although I must admit that the possibility of it had crossed my mind earlier. The second revelation is that Canada has a peculiar numbering system. Either that or I missed an issue somehow. I respectfully ask for an answer to this question: How can we have a mind games IV when we have yet to see a mind games III?

That about wraps it up for now. Thank you for another entertaining issue and keep up the fantastic work.

Sincerely,

Doug Williamson
2337 SW Archer Rd., Apt 1406,
Gainesville, FL., 32608

PS: When are you and your fellow artists going to come down this way? I noticed you spend a lot of time in California and would like to see you down this way.

PPS: I also want to mention that our local comic shop, **Novel Ideas,** carries all your stuff and more. I imagine Bill (the owner) would be more than happy to have you visit his shop.

PPPS: One last note. I would like to hear a recorded version of Cerebus and would buy such if made. Best of luck.

By now, Doug, I hope you figured out what happened to Mind Games III. In answer to your P.S.'s, I make personal appearances when I am invited.... have good old Bill write to me c/o the office and we'll see if we can get something going for the fall.

Unfortunately the Cerebus Radio Show album has been cancelled owing to the fact that we didn't get enough initial orders to warrant the expense of producing it.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Famous The Arts @ Sim:

I am being writing to all of you singly. Will be reading sixty two Aardvarks issue Cerebus. Will be thinking out quiet "Politics! Politics! Politics!" to self

aloud. Exposition too necessary, yes, but happen whatever humor anymore today forever?

I am have seen story so far first only before reading to you complaining to myself. In walking clowns and Scorz. Scorz is sewage away! Scorz is politics away! Laughing fifteen minutes belly inside. Percent funny is greater thinking than by surprise. Originally bought Cerebus is for.

Having writing laughs appreciation to you.

Paul Gadzikowski
920 Main St. #3,
Evanston, IL., 60202

Glad story is good to go. Finding that percentage of humour increase causes away the letters "Dear Ass-wipe". Will try for more percent inside your belly for sure, again.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave & Deni

About a month ago, I received my first issue of Cerebus (#60). It was a little confusing, but the various views of Cerebus and his entourage were interesting. So I went to my neighbourhood comic shop and got issues 29-59 and Swords 1-5, so I could figure out this High Society thing (I'm not totally sure, but I've only read it once). I plan to throw a few more bucks your way for artwork and the Animated Cerebus (and is the Cerebus - Six Deadly Sins portfolio still available?), but right now I can only afford the fan club (cheque enclosed).

I was pained to see that you were in the Bay area twice in the last few months while I was at college in L.A. (Check with me first next time, OK?) Any chance you'll be in L.A. in the fall?

Issue 61 was interesting. Cerebus' growing frustration shows just how thoroughly Weisshaupt has him pinned. Did Weisshaup cancel Palnu's loans to Iest and other Feldwar states or just assume control of the interest rates?

I was also confused by the Powers sequence. Is the Lion of the Serrea (was he the person Astoria was speaking to in #60) the head of the combined Church of Tarim or what? Am I supposed to be confused right now, or have I not been paying close enough attention?

I have thoroughly enjoyed every issue I've gotten and feel it was worth every dollar I spent to get High Society. You'll be hearing from me again the next time I get a paycheque.

I also think the Regency Elf is a doll.

Ted Schwarz
1245 Wooded Hills,
San Jose, CA., 95120

No, Astoria was talking to the Abbess. The Lion of Serrea sent his legions to reinforce the Church when it looked like the Hsifans (actually the Pigts) were going to capture Iest. He is the head of the combined churches, but his hold is tentative at best. It's rather like calling a country an ally because they accept military aid. 'Taint necessarily so.

As for Weisshaupt, he did both; Eliminated the need for the Feldwar States to pay each other off and jacked up the interest rates for the outside governments. So far it's working.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave,

One of the joys of historical research is the amazing discoveries one can make quite by accident. While investigating a particular esoteric cult I accidently happened to come across an entry for an Adam Weishaupt in the 1925 edition of the **Encyclopedia of Freemasonry.** Born February 6, 1748 at Ingolstadt, Adam was the founder of the Order of Illuminati of Bavaria. He managed to offend the Jesuits by obtaining a professorship in canon law at the U. of Ingolstadt, breaking a tradition of solely ecclesiastical appointment to the position. Let me quote:

"Weishaupt, whose views were cosmopolitan, and who knew and condemned the bigotry and superstition of the priests, established an opposing party in the University, consisting principally of young men whose confidence and friendship he had gained. They assembled in a private apartment, and there he discussed with them philosophic subjects, and sought to imbue them with a liberal spirit. This was the beginning of the Order of the Illuminati, or the Enlightened -- a name which he bestowed upon his disciples as a token of their advance in intelligence and moral progress". (Vol. II, pg. 843)

But Weishaupt fell out of favor. Having become semi-aligned with Freemasonry, the jealousy of the Jesuits rose in opposition and, exercising considerable (but secret) power, deprived him of his professorship, and he was banished from the country. He died in 1811, having been pensioned by Duke Ernest of Gotha, who had welcomed him in his exile and had made him a counselor.

Weishaupt had planned to do great things with his life, but was checkmated by the Clergy. The entry in the **Encyclopedia** narrates his ambitions to help improve mankind, says that "His failure in the end was attributable to ecclesiastical persecution, and to the faults of his disciples. The master works to elevate human nature: the scholars, to degrade. Weishaupt's place in history should be among the unsuccessful reformers and not among the profligate adventurers." (pg. 844). This last refers to the questionable nature of some of Weishaupt's exploits.

I have never read the Illuminati trilogy, though it has been recommended to me many times. I am more familiar with this particular group on a purely historical basis. But in terms of **Cerebus,** I have to assume the parellels are deliberate, between not just the name involved, but also such things as the secret meeting of the "revolution-ary mystic cult" in issue 14, and the eye in the pyramid during the snake attack in the pits of issue 15. Also, the intense mutual distaste between Weisshaupt and the Church: finally, the revealing dialog between Cerebus and Pope Harmony IV in issue 58:

CEREBUS: Cerebus is no priest.....
POPE: Nor is Weisshaupt the Magician... but that...is his goal... the final rung...on his ladder.

In "High Society" it seems these elements were downplayed a bit, in terms of the more explicit content of the series. Am I the only reader to make these connections? Looking back, they seem terribly obvious.... I realize that you, the artist, are the ultimate authority on what is going on and why in **Cerebus.** I'm not asking you to reveal anything. But... is Weisshaupt based on the historical Weishaupt? And better yet, maybe someday you'll tell me how you 'discovered' him. And why you worked such a character into **Cerebus.**

Liz Calhoun
1805 Nebraska
Flint, MI., 48506

Weisshaupt is based, to a degree, on the historical Weishaupt -- primarily, as you say, in his aversion to the Church and its superstructure. In the Illuminati, it is implied that he replaced George Washington at some point between the time Washington was a General and when he became President. I used him as a sort of quintessential American President -- an FDR, JFK type. Charismatic, self assured, can-do type. I am fascinated by individuals who nurture, encourage and generate their own personality cults in order to achieve and hold positions of power. That's what Weisshaupt as a Character allows me to explore in self-indulgent depth.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Dear Dave,

I like you. I like CEREBUS. I didn't like issue 62. But I still like you. I also like the Flaming Carrot. But I still like you. I'd like to ask you if you'd send a Cerebus sketch to my address because I like you. If not, I'll still like you....though not very much. Stay cool, Dave. We like you.

Anthony Padilla
3701 Oakgreen Avenue North,
Stillwater, MN., 55082

You'll just have to not like me very much, because I'm not sending you a sketch.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

even more in '84

FLAMING CARROT #2

Coming in July

copyright 1984 BOB BURDEN

Wakka Ding Hoy Dave,

As you may have already guessed, this started out as a letter to Howard Chaykin. However, I could not think of a comment to put that was wild, witty and original, I decided it would be easier to write to you instead. So here goes.....

I LIKE CEREBUS! Yes, it seems that your hobby has now moved up an age-bracke to include corrupting sixteen year olds as well. But, not only do you deprive me of my hard earned cash trying to buy back issues, but my obsession with Cerebus comes at an unwanted time, i.e. sitting '0' levels (I think you call them flunks over there!) Indeed, I sit writing this letter while 'revising' Biology.

O corrupter of youth, this sixteen year old intends to get his moneys worth, so please answer my questions or I'll eat my Official Cerebus Toy (Sword not included!)

a) In issue 60, there were plans for a second 'Tales of Young Cerebus'. Was that the first 'Arnold the Isshurian'? and if not, what was it and in which issue of 'Epic' did it appear in?

b) Was Mrs. Henrot-Gutch 'inspired' by a certain Grandma that appears regularly in a British Newspaper cartoon by Giles?

c) Is the postage rate any extra in Britian for items such as the Fan Club or the original art?

d) What about a British Tour?

Thank you

By the way, I don't know if it has ever been stated before, but has anyone noticed that Henrot is an anagram of (Frank) Thorne?

May your hands always contain a pair of priestesses, well a broad and a bottle of booze anyway!

Your corrupted admirer (and Deni's)

Jonathan Davies
397 Watling Street,
Mile Oak, Nr. Tamworth,
Staffordshire, ENGLAND

a) No. The "Tales of the Young Cerebus" started in Epic #26, which goes on sale in August. The second story "A Friendly Reminder" will appear some time after that. The third story "The Girl Next Door" won't appear at all unless I get up off my ass and do my part of page three so Gerhard can finish it. (Right, Ger?) (Right, Dave.)

b) Yes, I'm absolutely in love with the character. The Giles collections make Christmas something special for me.

c) Beats me. Add a quid or so if that seems reasonable. A few bob, whatever.

d) Sounds good to me. Maybe I should talk to Titan... any conventions coming up that I could squeeze in? How about starting up a petition at Forbidden Planet. Write your MP.

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Davey Dearest,

Your wondrous publication has of late come to my attention and given extreme moments of unbashed joy. Cerebus is truly a marvelous comic. There is, however, one thing which pains me to no end about our short gray friend. It seems to me that he never wears a tie. Now I know this may be a slight oversight, the purpose of ties in society are not greatly understood. However, I know you will quickly remedy this problem and give Cerebus a tasteful tie.
I have faith in you, Dave.

A good friend of mine, James Hoffa, has asked that you attend the Dallas Fantasy Fair in July. To Quote: "Tell the bastard to be there or I'll **never** give him his cat! Hahahahaha!"

Kilroy Vasseer
In all your greatest,
Corporate nightmares.

Cerebus used to have a tasteful tie when he was the Ranking Diplomatic Representative from Palnu. Try using your imagination with the sacred cloth of Tarim in this issue. I know it's not a tie but it's close.

My cat made a break for it, so I decided to go to Chicago instead... but I have promised the Dallas organizers that I will be at the fair next year, okay?

CEREBUS FAN CLUB

$10.00 per year includes four newsletters, bonuses, membership card certificate and more!

Make Cheques Payable To "Cerebus Fan Club"

SUBSCRIPTIONS

CEREBUS, JOURNEY and Ms. TREE (12 Issues)
1st Class Only
$33 (U.S.) $40 (Canadian)

NEIL, NORMALMAN, FLAMING CARROT and CUTEY BUNNY (6 Issues)
1st Class Only
$16.50 (U.S.) $20 (Canadian)

THE ANIMATED CEREBUS portfolio

forty five plates featuring three individual stories.
Unlimited signed edition $12.00 ea.
Signed and numbered edition featuring an original drawing of Cerebus to your specifications $100.00 ea

- HIS FIRST SWORD
- A WELL-EQUIPPED BAR
- ADD ONE MUMMIFIED BAT

BACK ISSUES AVAILABLE Add .75 postage per book

CEREBUS 28, 29, 32 & 33 - $2.00 each
CEREBUS 37-46, 48-64 - $1.50 each
JOURNEY 1-12 - $1.50 each
NEIL 1-8 - $1.50 each
FLAMING CARROT 1 & 2 - $1.50 each
Ms. TREE 10 - 1.50 each

The new Ms. TREE graphic novel begins

"DEADLINE"

by Max Collins and Terry Beatty

Ms. TREE

NOW MONTHLY from AARDVARK-VANAHEIM!

On sale at finer comic shops everywhere

SEND TO:

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM INC.

BOX 1674 STATION "C" KITCHENER ONTARIO CANADA N2G 4R2

WHAT is THE B-TEAM?

WHO is

FIND OUT in

E-MAN #21 ™

FIRST COMICS®

COUNT ON US.

TM & © 1984 FIRST COMICS, INC.